What Career for You?

If you're interested in a career helping animals, there's never been a time in history when the opportunities were better. There is a growing interest in, and concern for, the animals of Earth, among young people. Greater numbers of youth are seeking a life of service. They want what they do in life to have some meaning. They'll be your competition for the developing job opportunities working with animals.

At the same time, this new interest in service-oriented careers is also creating an awareness of the need for better protection for animals. Congress has enacted legislation that created new jobs. More such jobs are expected to develop in the future.

What career will it be for you? There's a wide variety to choose from. Some require extensive formal training. It may be highly specialized training, too. Others may not. In some jobs it's on the job training that's best. You might be an animal control officer, a pet shop worker, an elephant oiler, or a humane educator. Or you could pursue specialized studies to qualify you as a veterinarian, a wildlife biologist, a zookeeper, or an ichthyologist.

Another exciting field is that of animal genetics, with the growing interest in saving endangered species and establishing breeding colonies. Propagation of many endangered species is ripe for a breakthrough, because many of them do not readily breed in captivity. This is a science with a future, similar to the work of Luther Burbank, in plant genetics.

What career for you? The field is wide open for a career of service for the truly dedicated. Now's the time to decide, and train for the career that's right for you. Opportunities abound. Go after them — and Good Luck!
Who Really Needs Alligators?

Or tigers, whales and wolves? We all do—because every time a species disappears our future on earth is jeopardized in ways we can’t even conceive.

By Robert Bendiner

Try to imagine a future when people know about tigers and cheetahs, polar bears and grizzlies, only in the way people today know about dinosaurs and dodos—as pictures in an encyclopedia or synthetic skeletons in a museum. Think of the world’s seas without whales, its rivers without crocodiles, its skies without eagles or condors, and its forest without wolves or orangutans. Think hard, because if you are under 40 there is a good chance that you yourself will live in such a world.

More than 900 species and sub-species are now endangered—310 mammals, 320 birds, 190 reptiles and amphibians, and 90 freshwater fishes. And some wildlife experts estimate that a century from now very few animals will be left on earth at all—except for various pests and the few domesticated animals that man may choose to keep alive for his food and clothing.

What of it? After all, some will say, thousands of animal species vanished from the earth long before man’s arrival through the inevitable working out of evolutionary law. We are not worse off because mastodons and dodos no longer walk the earth. Would tigers or alligators be missed any more keenly?

The most common answer is that these threatened animals must be preserved for cultural and esthetic reasons—for the sheer pleasure of seeing them and knowing they exist. But more is at stake here than man’s pleasure. Indeed, it is from a different perspective entirely that one must now make the case for ending the continuing sacrifice of whole species to man’s momentary needs and desires.

Take the American alligator, whose appearance and behavior do not generally endear him to humans. Little more than a century ago, millions of these creatures inhabited Florida. Yet today, between the draining of swampland and the taking of skins for shoes and handbags, 50,000 alligators were reported killed by poachers alone in 1964; only 350,000 remain. If the alligator’s precarious state is not a matter of alarm to Americans in general, it does make an appreciable difference in the Everglades. As the waters of that matchless preserve recede—from both drought and draining—the alligator digs down to the lowered water table. With its long snout and powerful tail, it clears away detritus, leaving new gator holes.

In aerial counterparts, the eagle being a prime victim. Besides the delight they give simply by soaring through the sky, eagles share with the condor, the falcon and other raptors a less ethereal, more useful role: they eat mice, rabbits, squirrels and the like. To avoid this natural prey. These have then been fought with poisons, which have worked back up the food chain to snake, turtles and fishes. Among the latter are the gambusia, a tiny fish that lives in good part on mosquito larvae. Without alligators’ aid, the stranded gambusia would quickly die off—and the mosquitoes multiply. More pesticides could be introduced, of course, but that in turn would take a toll of birds, leaving increasing swarms of other insects to ravage crops. Such is ecology—the network of interdependent life that only man breaks at his pleasure.

This willful disruption of the natural balance has its aerial counterparts, the eagle being a prime victim. Besides the delight they give simply by soaring through the sky, eagles share with the condor, the falcon and other raptors a less ethereal, more useful role: they eat mice, rabbits, squirls and the like. Today, golden eagles are still being slaughtered in spite of legal prohibitions—and one result of the killing has been a multiplying of rabbits and rodents, the birds’ natural prey. These have then been fought with poisons, which have worked back up the food chain to the remaining birds of prey, reducing their numbers still further.

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To be continued next month

Suggested by KIND Reporter Margaret Smith

Oto France, student from Ghana, an enthusiastic promoter of The Kindness Club

Eric Sakach, who coined the name ECO-LOKIND for their club to show the importance of both ecology and kindness.

Eric’s not so short—Eric is 6’5” tall!

Oto France was born near Lambarene, site of Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s famous hospital. The KIND program is based on the doctor’s philosophy of ‘Reverence for Life.’ When Oto heard about The International Kindness Club, he joined.

He ran in track meets to earn a scholarship to study at the University of Nevada. Once there he asked us to help him to organize Kindness Clubs. We gave him the address of the local Animal Welfare League. Elizabeth Shay, League President, offered her home as a meeting place. When invitations were sent to the schools, her living room was wall to wall people. They organized committees and visited schools, starting new Kindness Clubs.

Eric Sakach was appointed to choose a name for their local club. He coined the word ECO-LOKIND. As the national program grew and we developed a newsletter for the older teens, we adopted the name Eric had created. We’re grateful to Oto and Eric for their efforts.
Are there people or organizations in your community that deserve recognition for their acts on behalf of people or animals? Has the local humane society encouraged pet owners to have their pets spayed or neutered? Have the Boy Scouts built brush piles for animal homes? Has the local 4-H group rescued a starving farm animal? Has one of your friends shown bravery in saving an animal that was trapped?

In every community there are people who are doing humane acts. Some of these people are well known. Others work quietly with little fanfare. Some work directly with animals. Still others donate time and money. And some go into action when they're asked. All of these humane workers need to be recognized and rewarded.

KIND wants to say Thank You to groups or individuals who are performing or have performed humane acts or projects. Beginning now, KIND is launching a nationwide search for kindness. We want you, the members of KIND, to be the KIND Detectives. We want you to find the KIND people in your community. When you do, we want you to write to KIND and tell us what you've discovered. Then we'll send you an award certificate that you can give to the KIND people you've discovered.

Watch the local newspapers and TV. Keep your eyes peeled for individual acts of kindness. When you write, make sure that you give KIND the following information:

1. Your name, address and age.
2. The names of the individuals or group that you are nominating for the KIND Award.
3. All the reasons why the award should be given to the group or individual (send news clippings if possible).
4. The names and addresses of local newspapers and TV stations.

When we receive your nomination, we'll review it and submit it to The Humane Society for final approval. Once we've OK'd your nomination, we'll put an award in the mail to you and then we'll call the local newspapers or TV stations. From this point on, it will be up to you to choose the time and the place for making the presentation.

Hopefully, the KIND Award will encourage others to be KIND, too. That's what it's all about!

Good luck in your search for kindness.

P.S. — Our new address is:

KIND
2300 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

—Alexander Lowry
MY MOTTO:
"BE KIND"

MY PLEDGE:
"I promise to be kind to animals and people and to speak and act in defense of all helpless living creatures"

KINDNESS IN NATURE'S DEFENSE
1975

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FEBRUARY

2 Groundhog Day
12 Ash Wednesday & Lincoln's Birthday
14 St. Valentine's Day
17 Washington's Birthday

MARCH

16 National Wildlife Week
17 St. Patrick's Day
19 Swallows Return to Capistrano
23 Palm Sunday
27 First Day of Passover
28 Good Friday
30 Easter Sunday

APRIL

1 April Fool's Day
22 Earth Day

MAY

4 Be Kind To Animals Week
11 Mother's Day

JUNE

30 Memorial Day

JUNE

8 Children's Day
14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day

June is Cat and Kitten Month
As Kenneth Lee Wilkie and his girlfriend walked home one afternoon, they noticed her cat high in a tree. It was frightened and wouldn't come down. Kenneth climbed the tree to rescue the cat. From 40 feet up he fell, hitting an iron fence and landing in a creek bed. His neck was broken.

Doctors predicted he would probably never walk again. A nerve in his left arm had to be severed to repair the damage to his spine.

But Kenneth has faith in God, courage and determination. His left arm is paralyzed and he has no feeling in his right side. But he walks again. He's back in school and has a part time job too. He rides a ten speed bike for therapy.

We can learn from Kenneth's tragic accident. It just isn't wise to take chances when rescuing animals. Better to get professional help. But we admire Kenneth's courage, nevertheless. Perhaps he should be the first to receive a Kindness Award, for trying to rescue the frightened cat. What do you think? Let's hear how you feel about it.

Letters and Pen Pals

Dear KIND,

I haven't received my July or August newsletters. Can you send them to me, please? Also, can you give me information on starting an animal club?

Thank you, Ann Sipes, age 15

With our "new look", we no longer publish a newsletter in July or August. But you get a larger special edition each June. An animal club should be easy to start. Persuade your friends to enroll in KIND and form your own Branch Club. — Ed.

Dear Mr. Hylton,

Last summer I was in Savannah, GA with an oceanography group from Atlanta. After studying at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography for one week, I was asked to stay the rest of the summer, assisting their biologists in research. Unfortunately, I could only stay one more week. They said that they wanted me next summer, so look out.

Your friend, Myles P. Kelley, age 14

Save The Whales T-shirts are $2.75 each. Specify size: small, medium, or large. Adult sizes also available at $3.50 each.
Editorial

We hope the information in this issue on careers and the additional information in our new careers book will be useful to you. If you haven’t already decided what you plan to do in life, now’s the time to make your plans!

Start your Search for Kindness right away. We don’t expect you to have the trouble Diogenes had, in his search for an honest man. There’s plenty of kindness being expressed to animals and people all the time. But most of it goes unrewarded. It’s time we gave it some recognition.

Good news comes from the Secretary of Commerce. He has decided to deny the application for a special permit for the Fouke Fur Company to import seal skins from Africa. He sent a team of veterinarians to observe the slaughter. Their report said that the way the untrained, inexperienced men were killing the seals would be a violation of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. If you wrote the Secretary to ask him to deny the permit, take heart that your letter helped.

The origin of the name ECOLOKIND is a story we thought you’d enjoy. Through The International Kindness Club, kindness does, indeed, encircle the Earth. It can make a better Tomorrow for us all.

R. Dale Hylton
Editor

Klip, Kut, or Kopy for KIND

It’s time to renew individual memberships in KIND for 1975. If you’ve got some friends that want to join – sign them up, too. KIND is for everybody because we all care about animals.

CHECK ONE BOX □ RENEWAL $2.00 □ NEW MEMBER $2.00

NAME BIRTHDATE
STREET & NUMBER
CITY STATE ZIP